

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Original) A method for manufacturing a molded woody article, comprising:
compression molding a base material containing wood fibers, polylactic acid fibers and an inorganic filler at a temperature not less than a melting point of said polylactic acid fibers; and maintaining said molded base material at a temperature close to a crystallization temperature of said polylactic acid fibers for a desired period of time, thereby crystallizing the polylactic acid fibers.
2. (Original) The method for manufacturing a molded woody article according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic filler contained in the base material is dispersed into the polylactic acid fibers.
3. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a molded woody article according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the inorganic filler contained in the base material is talc.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a molded woody article according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 1 [[to 3]], wherein in the molding step, the base material is prepared such that the ratio of the wood fibers to the polylactic acid fibers is in the range of 7:3 to 5:5 by weight.